

The Goodland Republic.

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WILD EXCITEMENT AT HAVANA

The Cuban City Expected to Be Besieged by the Insurgents.

General Gomez's Good Generalship Telling Against the Spanish.

The Insurgent Leader Outflanks the Famed Spanish Commander—Country People Flocking in Terror to Matanzas—Not Believed at Washington.

HAVANA, Dec. 25.—Christmas eve was ushered in with something like dismay in the city and there is apprehension hourly gaining ground that Havana will be besieged by armed forces before Christmas day is over. The advance of the insurgents seemed at latest advices to be unimpeded, thus contradicting a report sent out during the afternoon that they had been turned back in a pitched battle by Campos himself and were striving to make their way back into Santa Clara province. This rumor stated, in great detail, that Gen. Campos, in person, at the head of the Spanish forces, had succeeded in coming face to face with Gomez and his forces at the plantation of Coliseo, which was in flames. This plantation is situated 12 miles from Cardenas and 21 miles from Matanzas. The insurgents, it was said, were hemmed in and compelled to fight, all retreat being cut off. Desperate engagements took place, the combatants being surrounded by the flames of the burning plantations. The insurgents, it was said, were dispersed, leaving 700 dead and wounded on the field. The troops' loss was, it was reported, comparatively insignificant, being only 14, and Gen. Rialdes and Luque had already started to Sabinal del Incomodum, supported by several other columns, in pursuit of the flying insurgents, who were supposed to be making their way back to Santa Clara province at their best speed.

The details of this engagement had hardly been disseminated through the city, however, before there came in a further report that the insurgents were marching toward Guanabana and that Capt. Gen. Campos had hastened to that point to oppose the advance, thus once more moving his headquarters westward and nearer Havana, as he had had to do so often within the last few days. Guanabana is only about five miles out of Matanzas and ten or fifteen miles west of Coliseo plantation, where Gen. Campos was said to have won his important victory over Gomez in person. It became evident that the reports of Gen. Campos' successful stand and route of the insurgents was either unfounded or that the force he had met was merely a wing of the insurgent army sent to make a diversion, while the main columns pushed on to the westward.

All is confusion of mind here and the authorities are apparently all at sea as to what will be the next step of the insurgents, whether Matanzas will be besieged, or whether the advance on that point is merely a feint to hold the Spanish forces there, while the insurgent forces make a way once more in the west for Havana, which is less than 50 miles from Matanzas. The near approach of the insurgents to Matanzas has, in fact, had the effect of concentrating all the available Spanish forces at that town, and the country people for miles around have flocked in to Matanzas.

A day or so ago, the insurgents caused a scurry in Colon. Firing was heard at Ajua, about 15 miles from that place, and reinforcements were sent to the front, but this turned out to be little more than an outpost affair, and while the Spanish troops made for this point the main body of the enemy passed south of Colon, near the line of railroad, and headed for the frontier province of Havana, thus turning the flank of the captain-general, who, with the bulk of the Spanish forces in Cuba, is now well to the rear of the insurgent columns. The latter, moving much more rapidly than the Spanish troops, who are utterly unused to traveling in this thickly wooded country, without regular roads and with heavy grass and low brushwood to interfere with every movement, are not thought likely to be able to catch up with the quickly moving Cubans, whose machetes clear a road for their advances, and who, much more familiar with the country and accustomed to the climate, easily distance the Spanish soldiers, only recently brought into the country.

Gomez, by a beautifully-executed counter-march, has turned the flank of the famed Spanish commander, and yesterday, with his army, made his appearance close to the town of Jovellano, well to the rear of Colon and commanding the railroads to Cardenas, Mantanzas and Havana. The movement of the insurgents was an example of splendid generalship, accomplished under the most trying circumstances and in the face of overwhelming numbers of Spanish troops, commanded by the best officers of Spain.

A late dispatch says that Capt. Gen. Campos has managed to get out of Colon and that he has placed himself at the head of the Spanish forces at Limonar, 30 miles east of Matanzas, where he expects to be able to strike at the insurgents. Thousands of people from all parts of the country around Matanzas are flocking in terror to that city, according to the official dispatches. But other reports say that

they are in the main offering to join the insurgents, who are being plentifully supplied with provisions by the inhabitants of all the towns along the route they follow.

DISCREDITED AT WASHINGTON. WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—The officials of the Spanish legation appear not to be disturbed by the news coming from Havana. They ridicule the idea of the insurgents taking possession of a city like Havana, with its population of 300,000 people. Minister de Lome has received several dispatches from Havana showing in part the condition of affairs.

THE WAR TALK.

The New York Independent Will Vigorously Denounce It. New York, Dec. 24.—The Independent, which will be issued December 26, will say editorially:

War? Not a thousand times no! God forbid! It is a thought too monstrous to be seriously entertained. War with England? Impossible! She is our mother country. We are of one blood, one race, one language and one civilization. Our frequent expressions of jealous impatience with her only prove the sincere attachment that exists at bottom. War with England? Far be it from us. War with the United States, however, with whom the bonds of peace have so long remained unbroken? England cannot tolerate the thought. It ought to be impossible. Have we cultivated reason during all the centuries since we left the shades of barbarism to destroy it now by an appeal to the sword? Those who welcome war talk like fools: those who grow indignant over the prospect of it are worthy withals.

We are not beyond the province of diplomacy. England has given us no ultimatum nor has she given Venezuela an ultimatum. It is not cowardly on our part to refuse to precipitate a conflict. It is moral cowardice not to persist in a peaceful negotiation. We do not propose abject surrender. We propose to stand by the Monroe doctrine. England gave her cordial assent to it once, why not again? Let us have faith that honorable peace will be secured and let the hot-heads on both sides of the Atlantic who are conjuring up the spectre of war be treated as chattering magpies.

DISASTROUS FLOODS.

The Grand River Overflow (taking the Loss of Life and Property).

WAGONER, I. T., Dec. 24.—The Grand river flood continues to rise and now averages a depth of 70 to 80 feet in the channel and great desolation is being done. Houses, wagons, and farm animals of all description are seen floating down the torrent. Men and women were found in the tree tops to-day where they had been for 36 hours without shelter or food. They were rescued by a rescue party in boats. One woman was seen in a wagon box going down stream, calling for assistance, but so rapid was the current that nothing could be done for her. The St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern big iron bridge at Fort Gibson, 13 miles east, went down yesterday evening. All through traffic is abandoned. It will require several days to establish a transfer. No such flood was ever known in this part of the country.

OUR COAST DEFENSES.

Gen. Miles Says They Are in a Bad Condition.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Gen. Miles, commanding the army, has given out a statement by request in regard to the ability of the United States to defend itself in case of war. He said: "I have just returned from an inspection of the harbors of the southern coast and, like those of other sections of the country, I found them in an entirely defenseless condition. If war should break out at the present time all we have in the south, or, in fact, anywhere else, with a few exceptions, would be a lot of obsolete guns on rotten carriages, which would fall over because they could not be of any service. We are in a deplorable state for defense. There are only three modern high power guns in position in this country." The general says there would be no difficulty in getting 1,000,000 men, our small army acting as a nucleus for other troops.

ACCOUNTS STRAIGHT.

The Condition of the State Finances of Kansas Contrasted by Auditor Cole.

TOPICKA, Kan., Dec. 24.—State Auditor Cole yesterday checked up the accounts of State Treasurer Atherton and found them to be correct. The amount of cash in the treasury is \$348,444.93. This is the smallest amount that has been in the treasury for many years. The cause of this is that the heavy appropriations made by the legislature last winter have largely been expended, and the taxes due are slow about coming in. The only county which has paid its taxes is Sumner. Treasurer Atherton expects that there will be more than a million dollars on hand by January 1, when most of the taxes will have been paid.

THE STRIKE ENDED.

John Wanamaker The Man Who Happily Succeeded Where All Others Failed.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 24.—The great trolley strike is ended. This is final. John Wanamaker is the man who brought about the settlement, succeeding where all others failed. He was aided in the work by the members of the Christian league. The basis of settlement follows: While the Union Traction Co. will only treat with the workmen in its employ, it will allow them membership in any lawful organization; second, it will take up all grievances and give them full and fair consideration; third, it will, so far as it has vacant places, put on the old men, and as fast as vacancies arise will give preference to any of the old men yet unemployed and endeavor to arrange the trips of the cars to favor the old men as far as possible without violating its contract with the new men.

COLONY FOR SOUTH AMERICA

A Stupendous Plan of the Society of Brotherly Love.

The Commons Have Control of Over Two Million Acres.

There Are to Be No Poor, No Rich, but All to Be Equal and Happy According to the Dream of the Most Ardent Reformer.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 25.—The Society of Brotherly Love, which has its headquarters at 23 East Missouri avenue, and is composed of about 350 unemployed men, is not devoting its entire time to securing work for the unfortunate who have no money and no employment. There is a scheme in connection with the organization which is quite stupendous. It is the intention to ship as many men from here as will go to South America sometime next March where the South American Colonization Co., which was chartered in Kansas in 1894 by Secretary of State Osborn, has secured a grant of 2,500,000 acres of land in Venezuela and Colombia. One hundred and twenty-five men have already signed their intention of going from Kansas City, while 400 are expected from different parts of the country, principally the large cities. The colonists will board a ship at New Orleans about the 1st of next March.

L. N. Merrifield, business manager of the colony, and president of the Society of Brotherly Love, which he was instrumental in organizing from the ranks of the unemployed in Kansas City, recently surveyed the land on which it is proposed to establish the colony. He secured the concession from the Venezuelan and Colombian governments. The plan of settling the new country is similar to that employed in homesteads in the United States. The only thing that remains, it is said, is for the people to go there and live upon the land which is ready for settlement. A novel scheme to pay for the steamer passage of those going on the first trip is devised. Near the mouth of the Magdalena river in Colombia there is a large tract of land which is covered with guano. When the vessel reaches the mouth of this river it will be loaded with this rich stuff, 5,000 tons of which are ready to load, valued at \$35 a ton. This will be taken back to New Orleans and sold. Only enough men will be left at the river's mouth to load the boat, the rest of the party pushing on toward the interior, where a settlement will be started 300 miles from the coast. The land grant is principally located in what is known as the Casca Valley.

The 125 members of the Society of Brotherly Love, who have enrolled themselves as members of the colonization company, are enthusiastic over the prospect of settling in South America. The others still think the United States is good enough for them. It is the intention to run the South American colony as a commune. Applicants for membership must sign this agreement:

I hereby covenant with the South American Colonization Co. for five years of service, eight hours per day, Sundays excepted, for the consideration of free passage to South America, and board, clothing, amusement and the enjoyment of life, as deemed best by the company. I furthermore agree to turn such lands and property as I may acquire during said period into the common treasury, and to yield strict obedience to the majority vote or to such all legal interests, except dividend stock in said company. There are other requirements to membership which indicate a co-operative commonwealth to be established, in which there are to be no poor, no rich, but where men are all equal and happy according to the dream of the most ardent reformer.

REDUCED APPROPRIATIONS.

Chairman Cannon Says the House Committee Will Act Very Conservatively.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Mr. Cannon, chairman of the house appropriation committee, informed a press reporter that the appropriation for the fiscal year would be reduced to the lowest limit consistent with the need of the public service. He expected that this did not mean a "cheese paring" policy, but that no appropriation would be made for new work which could by any possibility be postponed until the nation's finances were more redundant. On the other hand, where the new work is virtually necessary, appropriation would be made for it even if bonds had to be sold to procure the means.

FIGHTING AT ZEITOUN.

Turkish Soldiers and Armenian Insurgents Engage in a Conflict.

BERLIN, Dec. 24.—The Frankfort Zeitung publishes a dispatch from Constantinople saying that there has been fierce fighting at Zeitoun between the Turkish troops who surrounded that city and the insurgent Armenians who defended it. The Turks were 16,000 strong and had 24 pieces of artillery while the Armenians numbered 15,000, but had no artillery.

Conference of Pan-American Republics.

RIO JANEIRO, Dec. 24.—The Brazilian foreign office has been in correspondence with Minister Mendonca in relation to a South American conference in which all the Pan-American republics shall take part. The subject for discussion will be the Monroe doctrine and general matters affecting it raised by the new issue on the Venezuelan

boundary dispute. It is understood that Brazil will take the initiative in the calling of the conference.

Four Denver Skaters Drowned. DENVER, Dec. 24.—While skating on Lathrop lake, near Ardena, seven miles west of Denver, Charley Jones, aged eight, fell through an air hole in the ice. His brother, Robert, and sister, Maggie, aged 21 and 30, respectively, and Ida Hall, aged 16, attempted to rescue him and all four were drowned.

AMERICANS IN TURKEY.

Secretary Olney Answers a Senate Resolution of Inquiry.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—The president yesterday replied to the senate resolution of December 4, calling for information received by the state department respecting affairs in Turkey. The response is in the shape of a report by Secretary Olney, summarizing but not including the official correspondence, and beginning with the massacre at Mosch in August, 1894. In substance, the secretary's report recounts all that has been done to protect American citizens against the rioters; shows that while their property has suffered in two instances, they have not been injured in person; quotes Minister Terrill as estimating the number of Armenians killed at 30,000, and after citing several cases wherein naturalized Americans have been oppressively treated, states that proper steps have been taken to secure indemnity in all cases and to protect naturalized citizens in their treaty rights.

BUT ONE ISSUE.

Main Issue, Legislation Has Been Dissolved—School Question the Only Fight.

WINNEPEG, Man., Dec. 14.—The Manitoba legislature has been dissolved and new elections will be held at once. Nominations take place on January 8, and the elections on January 12. The new house will be called for the dispatch of business on January 25. Premier Greenway has issued his address to the people and the fight will be made almost solely upon the school issue.

A Train Seized.

METROPOLIS, Ill., Dec. 25.—When the local freight going south pulled up into the station at 7:10 last night it was boarded by 15 trainmen who took possession of the train and attacked the conductor and crew when they attempted to eject them. The engine cut loose from the cars and ran into the city for police, who boarded the engine and steamed back to the station cars, where fighting was in progress. Six of the trainmen were overpowered by the officers, and the remainder fled, with a posse in pursuit.

Fire in a Tobacco Plant.

OWENSBORO, Ky., Dec. 23.—The six story tobacco stemmy of Elliott & Son burned last night. The loss on the building is \$15,000; insurance, \$14,000; loss on stock, \$14,000; insurance, \$10,000. The Green River Tobacco Manufacturing Co., occupying a small portion of the third floor, suffered a loss of \$1,000, with no insurance. O. B. Reed's transfer tables were also destroyed. The loss is about \$1,000. Five cars of food standing on the railroad and belonging to O. W. Hansford were damaged badly. They were valued at \$1,200.

Chicago Workers Awake.

CHICAGO, Dec. 25.—The citizens who have undertaken to bring the democratic national convention to Chicago met last evening at the Iroquois club and began business by contributing \$50 each to the fund for the payment of preliminary expenses. If the convention is secured the subscribers to the contingent fund will be reimbursed out of the general fund.

Improvement at Boston.

BOSTON, Dec. 25.—There was a noticeable reaction from the panicky condition of last week's market at the opening of business at the stock exchange yesterday, and it is now believed that the worst is over. The advance in prices noted during the first few minutes of business was not seriously broken, and a feeling of greater confidence was apparent.

Melrose to Become an Editor.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Dec. 25.—John Melrose, the retiring president of the American Federation of Labor, will probably go into the newspaper business, having received an offer of the editorship of the labor department of one of the New York papers, and been asked to take charge of a daily paper at Massillon, O., his home.

A Child Wins a Goodly Sum.

WICHITA, Kan., Dec. 25.—Myrtle Hammond, a little girl who was injured by being struck on the head by a piece of gas pipe that fell from a bundle case over a seat on a St. Louis & San Francisco train on which she was riding, secured a verdict of \$4,500 in the district court.

Erasmus Wins a Set Free.

ALBANY, N. Y., Dec. 26.—The court of appeals yesterday handed down a decision in the case of Erasmus Wiman, charged by the commercial agency of E. G. Dan & Co. with forgery. The court sustains the opinion of the general term of the supreme court, reversing the judgment of the conviction and sentence of six years, and Mr. Wiman is therefore a free man.

Killed by an Explosion.

CHICAGO, Dec. 24.—A frightful dynamite explosion occurred yesterday afternoon on section 14 of the drainage canal, about one mile from the town of Romeoville. Two men were instantly killed and five fatally and two seriously injured.

TO INCREASE REVENUE RATES

The Committee Hard at Work on the New Tariff Bills.

Important Changes to Be Made by the Ways and Means Committee.

The Bills Not Intended to Represent Republican Policies on the Tariff or Finance—A-Speaker Cries to Offer a Substitute.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—The republican members of the ways and means committee held another conference and decided upon several changes in the two revenue bills which will be introduced in the house at once. The most important change in the tariff bill was to drop the clause putting in cereal breadstuffs, live stock and dairy products at an advance of 15 per cent. over the Wilson-Gorman rates, so that these features will simply have the 15 per cent. advance under the horizontal clause.

It was also decided to advance carpet wools to the McKinley bill rates, but other wools and manufactured products of wool will remain at 60 per cent. of the McKinley tariff, according to the agreement of yesterday. The other change was to exempt sugar from the horizontal advance of 15 per cent. of the McKinley duty.

In the bond bill the principal issue authorized will be a change of the rate of interest authorized by the act of '75 from four per cent. to three per cent., and these bonds will be payable at the option of the government after three years. The rate of interest for the one year treasury certificates of indebtedness was raised from two per cent. to three per cent. This bill will also provide for the temporary isolation of the greenbacks so that they will be held separate in the treasury and not included within the general assets of the government.

Several important considerations operated to bring about the changes in the tariff bill. There has been little doubt from the beginning that sugar would be exempted from whatever tariff changes were made, because any attempt to alter the schedule would give rise to complications. The decision to drop farm products and cattle from the list of duties to be advanced will cause disappointment among the western men, but so much trouble arose over the settlement of these items that it was thought best to drop their consideration. An effort was made to have iron and steel and their products given an advance, but it met with opposition from the western men and was abandoned, its abandonment also having something to do with dropping the live stock and cereal advances contemplated. The iron and steel interests argued that they should be equally favored with the farmers.

Members of the committee state emphatically that these bills are not intended in any way to represent republican policies on the tariff or finance; they are merely temporary expedients to meet an emergency, the republicans holding the emergency is caused by an insufficiency of revenues. Chairman Dingley had a conference yesterday with Secretary Carlisle over the bills. Both bills will be adopted by the ways and means committee at a meeting which the democratic members will attend. They will be reported to the house Thursday with a rule giving that day for debate on the tariff bill with a vote at the close and Friday for debate on the bond bill, bringing that to a vote Friday night.

A plan has been drafted by ex-Speaker Crisp and Mr. Bailey, of Texas, which will be offered as a substitute for the republican measures. It is based on the old bill for coinage of silver seigniorage, which was passed by the last congress and vetoed by the president, but to this bill modified will be added a feature for the redemption of greenbacks. The principal feature in the seigniorage bill will be the omission of that part which rendered available the seigniorage before it had been coined by the use of silver certificates based upon it. The framers of the bill hold that this feature is not necessary, because there is no immediate deficiency with the present amount of silver in the treasury. The other feature of the plan will provide for the redemption of the greenbacks in silver whenever the amount of gold in the treasury falls below \$100,000,000. This may be offered as an amendment to the seigniorage bill, as more votes can be mustered for the former than for the latter proposition. The democrats who favor the plan intended, of course, merely to place themselves on record as consistent in their financial policy.

THE NICARAGUA CANAL.

Democrat That the American Company's Charter May Be Revoked.

CHICAGO, Dec. 25.—A special to the Times-Herald from Washington says: A South American diplomat now in Washington has received a personal letter from a member of the Nicaraguan cabinet stating that the charter of the Nicaraguan Canal Co. will be revoked by Nicaragua. A representative of a London syndicate is now in Managua in conference with the officers of the government, and he has used the recent adverse report by the American commission as an argument in favor of a concession to a British company. He has promised that if the existing charter is revoked, a British syndicate will take up the work and push it through without depending upon state support. The Nicaraguan government, the minister states, is provoked at the delay in the work of the American company and at the recent report of the commission.

PORTO RICAN UPRISING.

Movement on Foot to Join Forces with Cuba Against Spain.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—A local paper says: Members of the Porto Rican revolutionary party, who have organized a junta to work in connection with the Cuban junta, are purchasing arms and fitting out an expedition. The organization of the party and the junta has met with the approval of Porto Ricans in this city and elsewhere, who realize that a decisive blow can be struck for liberty, now that Spain's attention is devoted to the quelling of the insurrection in Cuba.

Explosion in a Crowded Street Car.

TOPICKA, Kan., Dec. 25.—A revolver in the hip pocket of Herman Trautman, a youth of 20, went off on a crowded street car in this city. The bullet lodged in Trautman's leg, inflicting a dangerous wound. The explosion created a panic and several women fainted.

Quay and Hastings Make Up.

HARRISBURG, Pa., Dec. 25.—A complete reconciliation has been effected between Senator Quay and Gov. Hastings and they are again friends. Senator Quay was with the governor at the executive department yesterday for over an hour. They met by appointment and what passed between them neither will disclose.

KANSAS WANTS HIM.

A Sherman County Officer Goes to Round Pond, Ok., After R. S. Elwood.

TOPICKA, Kan., Dec. 25.—Armed with a requisition from Gov. Morrill, the sheriff of Sherman county, Kan., has gone to Round Pond, Ok., to be on hand Friday morning, when R. S. Elwood, the bank swindler, will be released from custody. Elwood will be at once arrested and returned to Kansas. The crime for which he will be tried here is swindling the Goodland, Sherman county, bank out of \$800 by means of a New York draft purporting to be issued by an Oklahoma bank, which had no existence. Elwood is well known all over Kansas. When he went to Goodland he got A. B. Montgomery, the rainmaker, to identify him, and the cashier of the bank then counted him out the money. From Goodland Elwood went to Ness county and secured \$300 from a bank there on the same kind of a fraudulent draft. From Ness he went to Cripple Creek and later transferred his operations to Oklahoma, where he was captured.

The New Fund Syndicate.

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—The Evening Sun says it is reported that the syndicate to take the new issue of gold bonds will consist of J. Pierpont Morgan & Co., August Belmont & Co., Speyer & Co., and other associated bankers.

Armour to Export Live Cattle.

BOSTON, Dec. 24.—The Standard says: "Shipments of live cattle to Great Britain via Boston will probably be largely increased in the near future. Armour & Co., the largest packers in the world, have commenced to export steers on the hoof, and will probably be numbered among the largest exporters. Their shipments will be largely made from this port, the first lot of 440 steers going on the Cunard steamer Slavonia early in January.

A Steamship Sunk.

LONDON, Dec. 24.—The American line steamship Berlin, from Southampton for New York, collided with and sank the British ship Willowbank, of Glasgow, 50 miles southwest of Portland, on Sunday. The Berlin returned to Southampton with her bow greatly damaged by the collision, and bringing with her the crew of the Willowbank. The Falkland pilot went below to save his clothes, and was drowned.

Dr. Hearne Acquitted.

BOWLING GREEN, Mo., Dec. 23.—The greatest murder mystery in the history of Missouri remains unsolved. At six o'clock Saturday night, in the dimly lighted court room where Dr. Hearne has been on trial for the murder of Amos J. Stillwell for two weeks, a jury of his peers found him not guilty and he was formally discharged.

KANSAS, with a prohibition statute,

has 2,770 government licenses to sell liquor. The population of the state is 1,427,000, which makes one license to every 555 inhabitants. If the voting population is one-fourth of the whole it would leave one liquor dealer out of every 132.

A FREE-HANDED capitalist advertiser he will pay \$50 cash for choice unnumbered Finney county farms. This offer was probably made through the influence of the Million club.

The state printing appropriation

is already gone, and the "redeemers" are looking around for an escape from the boomerang they threw at the populists last fall.

A good many Kansas papers are of the opinion that Congressman Dick Blue talks too much with his mouth. That sort of exercise is Dicky's long suit.

The weather is expected to strengthen

as the days lengthen, at least that is what the weather prophets say.

will take up the work and push it through without depending upon state support. The Nicaraguan government, the minister states, is provoked at the delay in the work of the American company and at the recent report of the commission.

WANTS ANOTHER BOND ISSUE

Another Special Message from the President.

Appeals to Congress to Put More Gold in the National Cash Box.

The Financial Situation Briefly but Fully Set Forth—The Aid of Congress Invoked to Avert Impending Dangers.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—At 4:40 o'clock yesterday afternoon the president sent the following message to congress:

In my last annual message the evils of our present financial system were plainly pointed out and the causes and means of the depletion of government gold were explained.

It was therein stated that after all the efforts that had been made by the executive branch of the government to protect our gold reserve by the issuance of bonds amounting to more than \$100,000,000, such reserve then amounted to but little more than \$70,000,000, that about \$16,000,000 had been withdrawn from such reserve during the month next previous to the date of that message, and quite large withdrawals for shipment in the immediate future were predicted. The contingency then feared has reached us, and the withdrawal of gold since the communication referred to and others that appear inevitable, threaten such a depletion in our government gold reserve as brings us face to face with the necessity of further action for its protection. This condition is intensified by the prevalence in certain quarters of sudden and unusual apprehension and timidity in business circles.

We are in the midst of another season of perplexity, caused by our dangerous and fatuous financial operations. These may be expected to recur with certainty as long as there is no amendment in our financial system. If in this particular instance our predicament is at all influenced by recent insistence upon the position we should occupy in our relation to certain questions concerning our foreign policy, this furnishes a signal and impressive warning that even the patriotic sentiment of our people is not an adequate substitute for a sound financial policy.

Of course there can be no doubt in any thoughtful mind as to the complete solvency of our nation, nor can there be any just apprehension that the American people will be satisfied with less than an honest payment of our public obligations in the recognized money of the world. We should not overlook the fact, however, that aroused fear is unreasonable and must be taken into account in all efforts to avert public loss and the sacrifice of our people's interests.

The real and sensible cure for our recurring troubles can only be effected by a complete change in our financial scheme. Pending that the executive branch of the government will not relax its efforts nor abandon its determination to use every means within its reach to maintain before the world American credit; nor will there be any hesitation in exhibiting its confidence in the resources of our country and the constant patriotism of our people.

In view, however, of the peculiar situation now confronting us, I have ventured to breathe the earnest hope that the congress, in default of the inauguration of a better system of finance, will not take a recess from its labors before it has by legislative enactment or declaration, done something, not only to remind those apprehensive among our people that the resources of this government and a scrupulous regard for honest dealing, affords sure guarantee of unquestioned safety and soundness, but to reassure the world that with these facts and the patriotism of our citizens, the ability and determination of our nation to meet in any circumstances every obligation it incurs do not admit of question.

Appointed Agent.

ENMETRICK, Ia., Sept. 27.—M. Robinson, Goodland, Kansas: Dear Sir—You may say that Brooks Riser formerly was the agent of the American Investment Co. and did some little business for me before he left the country last spring; that he notified me that he would not be able to attend to my business any longer, and that I, therefore, appointed you as my agent in his place, and you are hereby authorized to demand and collect any and all 1895 rentals on the lands controlled by me in Sherman county, Kan., and your receipt for parties for such rentals will be complete evidence that they have paid, and they will be protected against any other demand.

F. E. ALLEN, Receiver.

American Investment Co.

Shaking on the court house pond

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